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How I became a k

Exclusive interview Teenage murderer Jamie explains why he and his best friend stabbed a

In the award winning Life magazine

ESTABLISHED 1791

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Labour's olive branch to private schools

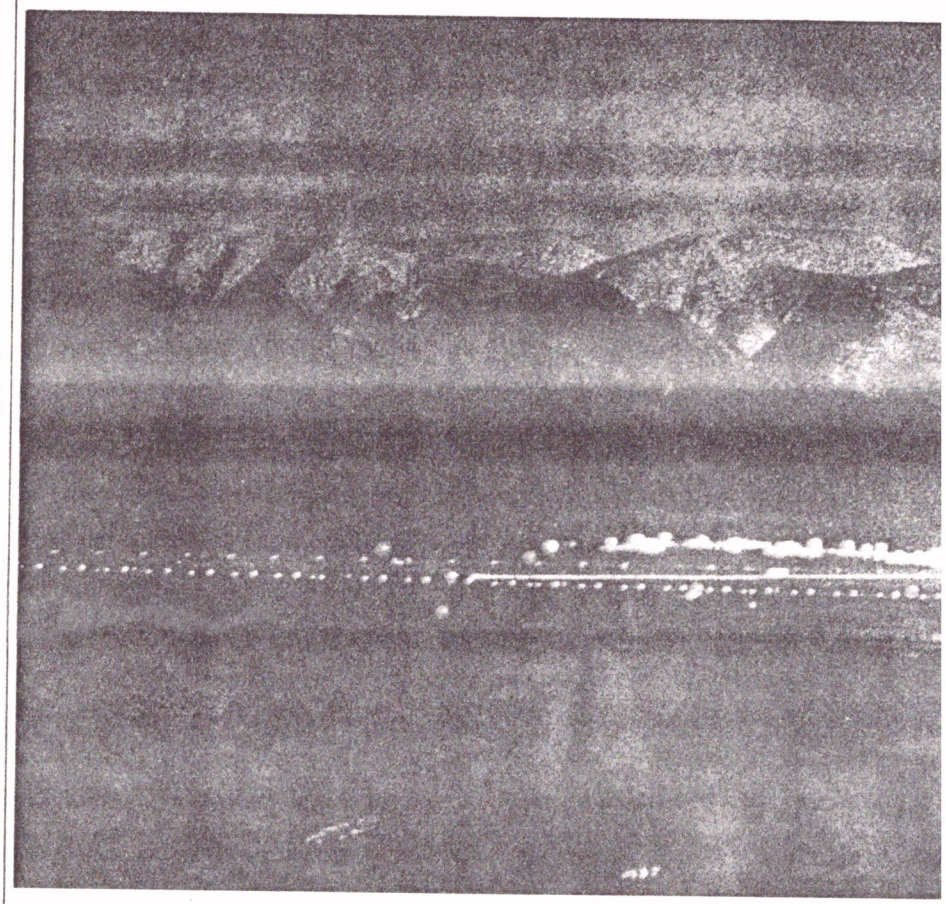
Barry Hugill
Education Correspondent

LABOUR is planning to woo hundreds of private schools back into the state system. In a reversal of its long-standing hostility to fee-paying schools, it hopes to convince them only Labour can guarantee their long-term survival.

This olive branch will fuel the furious row engulfing Labour following Tony Blair's decision to send his son, Euan, to a grant-maintained school. Writing in today's *Observer*, Roy Hattersley, the former deputy leader, says extending choice is 'about the wish to reintroduce selective education in an even more devisive form than the old 11-plus . . . it will condemn millions of working-class children to an education which is generally regarded as inferior'.

Last night David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, confirmed that talks had been held with headteachers of both grant-maintained and private schools: 'We are keen to explore the possibility of bringing back in some of the independent schools. I favour diversity and think there is potentially a place in the state system for them.'

Revealed: Dreamland, the air bas



Close encounters: Mysterious lights shine through the Nevada desert night at a t

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And in the Review...

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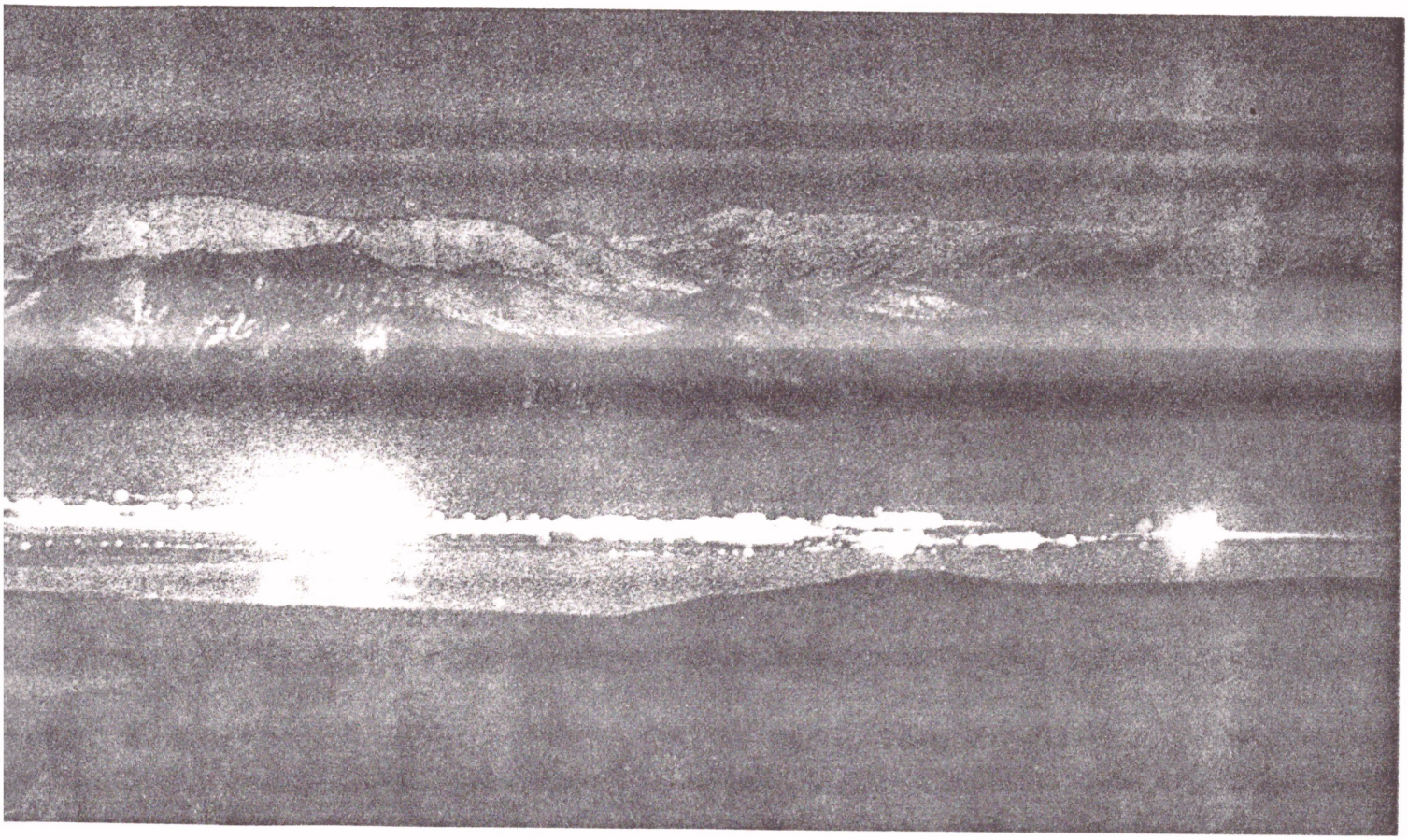

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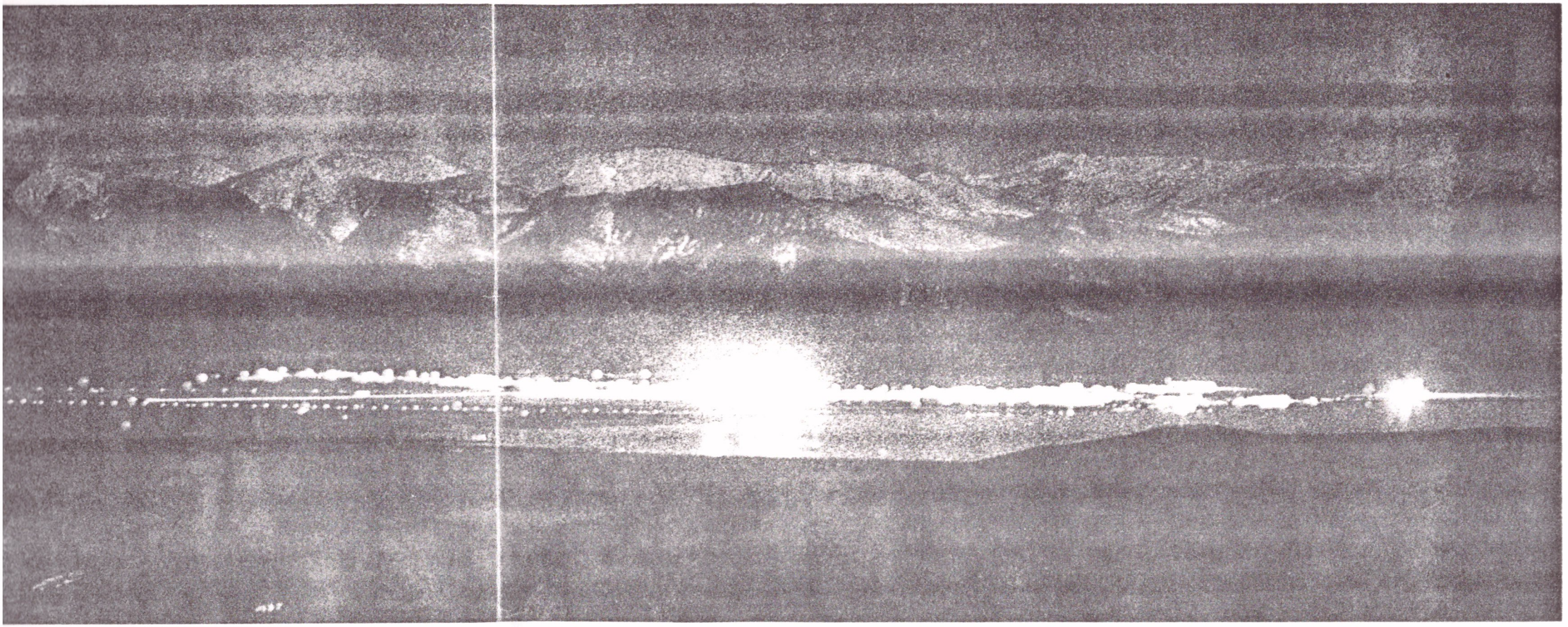

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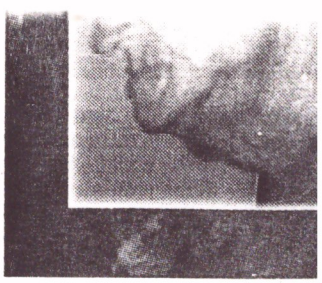

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DATELINE

Sleaze and slogans mark the road to Shangri-La

Sikkim

Richard Brooks

SIKKIM, the tiny north-east Indian state which was ruled by a succession of kings over the centuries until it was annexed by New Delhi in 1975, has the most extraordinary road signs in the world.

On the hilltop drive into the capital Gangtok, which nestles between the Himalayas and Tibet, one is assailed by road signs in English (Sikkim's second language after Nepali) inspired by the Indian poet Tagore and Shakespeare, or offering advice about the hazards of driving along the precipitous roads. 'On a curve, keep your nerve,' says one. 'Driving faster can cause disaster,' warns another. 'Speed has five letters like death,' advises a third. But my favourite was the ghoulish: 'If you want to give blood, don't give it on the road.' There is probably some office in

mountains. In 1975 Sikkim's 200,000 people voted to become India's 22nd state. Despite recent attempts to attract tourists to Sikkim, visas are limited. Do not think you can venture the 20 miles from Gangtok to the Chinese Tibetan border.

Sikkim has good reasons for being paranoid about security. For years China has laid claim to it and, despite better relations, Peking has still not recognised Sikkim as an Indian state. As recently as October an Indian government report said of Sikkim that 'it will not be in the interest of our security if foreigners are allowed access and thereby secure information about the deployment of our military personnel'.

In fact, it is easy to see how they are deployed as they are everywhere. They even patrol the roof of my hotel in Gangtok, the Tashi Delek, which defies the Trades Description Act by calling itself 'the luxury of heights' despite haphazard water and electricity supply and no heating, which necessitated my first hot

up the populace was not so much the first elections for five years, but the fact that the state had been declared alcohol-free for the occasion. To the many serious drinkers of Sikkim (millet beer is the main brew), this was devastating.

In case anybody did have difficulty working out who they should vote for, the parties had helpfully decided on different symbols, which they painted on every wall. A hand for Congress; an umbrella for the Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); an elephant for the Sikkim Sangram Parishad (SSP); and a light bulb for the Independents. Then there were clocks, fishes, watches and ladders for some of the eight other parties fighting for the 32 seats in the Assembly.

The election issues are universal. Taxes, the economy (rice and spices mainly), health and schools. So how does the electorate decide? Frankly, it depends on which party can bribe most voters. The bribes vary from 50 rupees (£1) to 1,000. But there is a new twist for this election. 'In

Worldwatch

Kurd paper hit by bomb blasts

Bomb blasts destroyed the main Istanbul and Ankara offices of *Ozger Ulke* (Free Country), Turkey's leading pro-Kurdish daily, in apparently co-ordinated attacks. At least one man was killed and 22 were wounded.

Russians freed

Authorities in the breakaway republic of Chechnya released two wounded Russian servicemen captured in an abortive opposition attempt to topple the regime. In the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, Georgy Chanturia, head of the opposition National Democratic Party, was killed in a machine-gun attack on his car.

Four die in club

Three men and a teenage girl were found dead in the stairway of a nightclub at Elizabeth, New Jersey, apparently crushed in a stampede to get out after a fight started.

Atomic stamp

Japan has formally asked Washington to reconsider a plan to issue a US postage stamp next year marking the fiftieth anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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lunch free for kids. Wine £1 for you.

(HOW'S THAT FOR A SUNDAY SERVICE?)

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PASTA CAFE

Kids LUNCH *free*

Children under 12 can have any pasta or pizza dish, a fizzy drink and ice-cream, all from our Kids Menu, for free.
Offer valid today only, 4/12/94 from 11 am – 4 pm, when a minimum of one adult accompanies each child.
Please take this voucher with you.
Not redeemable for cash or in conjunction with any other offer.

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Adults WINE *for £1*

Adults can have a bottle of house wine for £1 when a minimum of 2 adults each order a 2 course meal.
Offer valid today only, 4/12/94 from 11 am – 4 pm.
Normal licensing laws apply, wine may not be taken from the premises.
Please take this voucher with you.
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BELLA PASTA
CODE 94

INNER LONDON OUTER LONDON REGIONAL

Ed Vulliamy in Rachel, Nevada, sees a US Air Force base in waste disposal policy who, for fear of further reprisal, are

Dying for an American dreamland

THE PILOTS who fly the supersonic fighters, crashing through the deep blue sky above, call it Dreamland on their radios. To the UFO-watchers who gather by night to peer into the desert heavens, it is Area 51. To those who chart the designs of secret aircraft before they are built, it is called Groom Lake.

Down below us, at the foot of a ridge in the ancient, high desert of Nevada, it spreads across the edge of the dry lake with parched, mighty mountains rising behind: a collection of hangars, buildings, runways and parked aircraft, and rising smoke caught by the late desert sun.

Whatever it is we are looking at does not appear on even the most detailed maps; the Pentagon will tell you that Dreamland or Area 51 Air Force base does not exist.

And the reason Dreamland 'does not exist' is because it hides not only the wonders of military technology, but the human price being paid for such technology: men now revealed as badly sick and even dying from toxic waste burned within the base.

For 40 years, Dreamland has been the keeper of America's darkest military secrets, the 'Black Programmes' that never feature on budget lists. The prototype for the U2 spy-plane was built here; then the 'Blackbird' that flew at 2,190mph; then the jet-black Stealth fighter that defies belief as well as radar. And now the base is cradle to a next generation of hyper-sonic airplanes, christened 'Aurora', which [illegible] at 5,000mph [illegible]

Turley's clients describe how materials used in the development of aircraft — paints, solvents, fuels — are so secret that they have to be disposed of on-site. They are dumped in open trenches, doused with fuel and burned.

The government has sought, unsuccessfully so far, to block the action on national security grounds. 'We don't contest the government's need for national security,' Turley said. 'But at Area 51, the government attempted to create a secret enclave in which domestic laws were not applicable. If a corporation had committed these violations, someone would be heading for jail right now. And the minute the government acknowledges the existence of Area 51, it falls within the jurisdiction of domestic laws and penalties.'

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The zone quickly became a hot favourite for flying saucer sightings. And so, halfway through supper at the A'le'Inn (pork chops, omelette and chips), the door bursts open and a score of UFO tourists arrive for a meal.

They are people like Helen Bradley from California: 'Oh yes, we saw one all right, on a tripod, moving very fast . . . It's in the scriptures, that we shall ascend with them, but the government is covering it up . . .'

But the base is all too worldly, the threat all too real. The scene is Las Vegas airport, 4am: beside a terminal tucked away on the outskirts of the runways, adjacent to a hotel-casino complex, a white Boeing 737 marked only with a red stripe waits to take off. A group of men appear in the half light, escorted by security guards, and board the jet. They are on their way to work the shifts at Dreamland.

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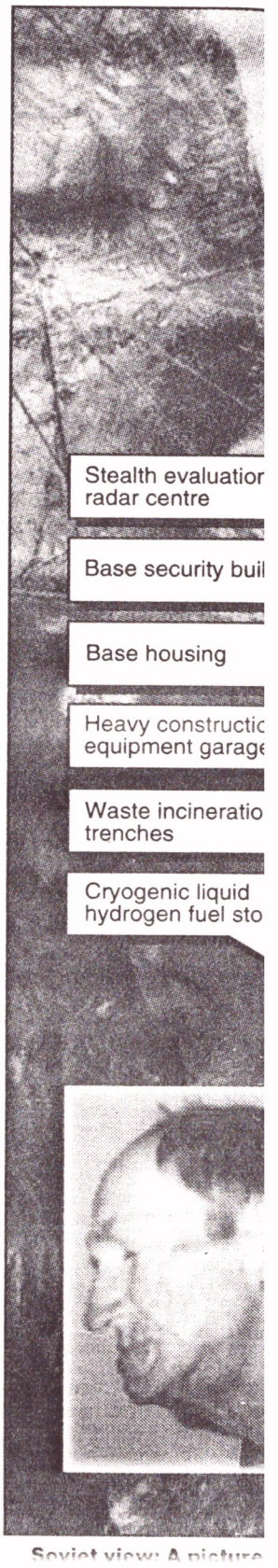

Soviet view: A picture

NEWS

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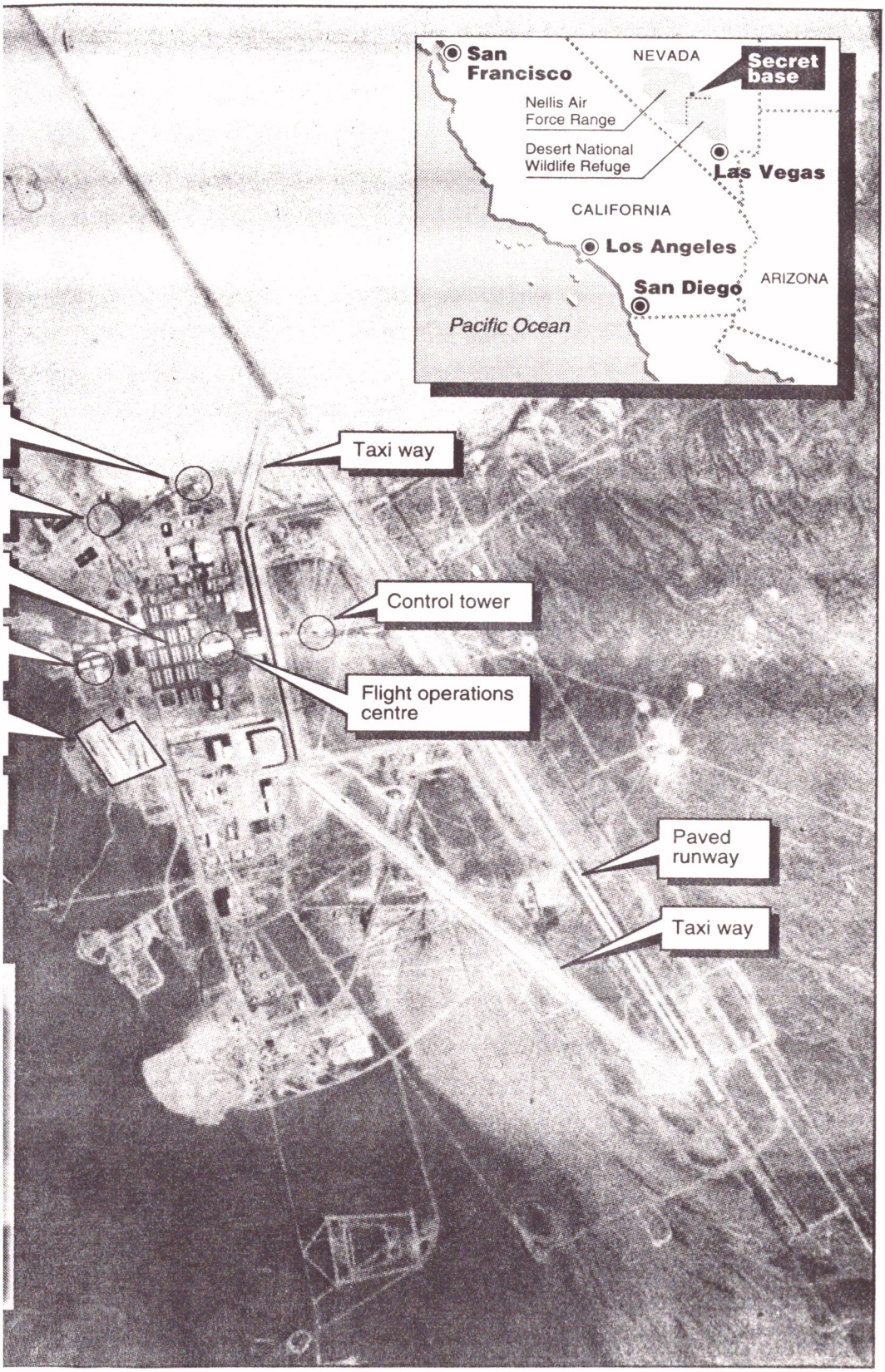

secret base, taken from a satellite in 1988. Insert: Robert Frost, who died mysteriously

At a meeting last week the government stalled. Tomorrow Turley will begin an unprecedented battle by filing his 'Motion to Compel'.

He intends to make the unprecedented move of calling Perry, Lake and Widnall as witnesses, even though it is forbidden to subpoena Cabinet members.

The legal tool would be an exception to the Cabinet's immunity, which provides that a member can be called if he or she has specific personal knowledge of, or interest in, a case.

Turley asserts that 'both Perry and Widnall headed companies with financial ties to this facility of Black Programmes that precede their service in government.'

He claims that before Perry became deputy Defence Secretary in the Carter administration — directly responsible for the classification of the pre-Stealth Black Programmes at Area 51 — he was president of a company called ESL. The company was later merged into the giant TRW aerospace conglomerate, a major contractor on the Stealth programme.

Widnall was trustee of a company called Aerodynamics, whose records are now blocked for reasons of national security, and whom the plaintiffs say supplied equipment for Air Force Black Programmes.

The Pentagon declines to discuss the business affairs of its political masters, and the case itself. But its line on Area 51 meanders. 'There is no such place,' declared a spokesman on Friday. Two weeks ago, another spokesman said: 'There is a facility there, but I can't say what it is.'

A computer programmer from Boston, Glenn Campbell, decamped to a trailer in Rachel to set up what he calls the Secrecy Oversight Council, a watchdog on Area 51. Campbell found the ridge from which we looked down upon Dreamland this week, but soon even this may be impossible.

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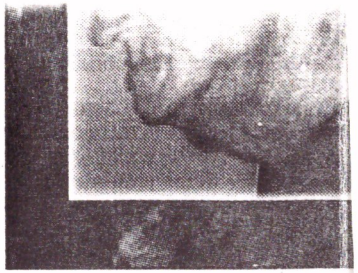

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IL CASO 20.5.16 Giorno

di GABRIELE GABBINI

VIA I SEGRETI DEGLI UFO

DALLA PADANIA *allo spazio aperto il salto è breve. Così succede anche che, nel caos della campagna elettorale per le Europee, oltre al consueto mare tumultuoso di promesse ai potenziali elettori, ce ne sia una che colpisce per la sua originalità. La promessa in questione è quella di Claudio D'Amico, leghista, ex sindaco di Cassina de' Pecchi, cittadina alle porte di Milano, ed ex parlamentare che oggi estende la sua lotta all'immigrazione dai mari fino alle stelle. Sua infatti la proposta, che coinvolge tutti i Paesi europei, di aprire gli archivi comunitari sugli Ufo, oggetti volanti non identificati. "Qualche giorno fa – commenta D'Amico – lo stesso Papa ha fatto un'affermazione molto particolare, dicendo che se dovessero arrivare extraterrestri che chiedono di essere battezzati, bisognerebbe capire come muoversi". Da qui, la riflessione: «In passato ho avuto modo di conoscere chi si occupa di ufologia in Italia e mi sono reso conto che questo argomento interessa a molti cittadini». Altro che barzelletta da bar: «La cosa più importante oggi è essere informati. Gli avvistamenti esistono, così come gli archivi dei governi: quello che chiedo è solo rendere note queste informazioni, affinché una commissione di esperti possa analizzarle e trarre le sue conclusioni. La gente ormai è pronta a sapere". Proprio la Lombardia è la Regione che svetta in testa agli avvistamenti nazionali: 1050 dal Dopoguerra a oggi, 570 solo a Milano. Che succederebbe allora se i barconi arrivassero dallo spazio invece che dal mare? «O gli alieni fanno regolare permesso di soggiorno – sta al gioco D'Amico - oppure tutti a casa».*